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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRYUSSR

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The DOSARM paramilitary training is not the same as the so-called "110 hours" of training received in the Soviet Army by recruits in military barracks after their induction but prior to distribution to actual army units. The DOSARM (Dobrovolnoye Obshchestvo po Sotrudnichestvu s Armiyey - Voluntary Association for Cooperation with the Army) training, although allegedly voluntary, is practically obligatory to all male youths of the USSR and does not have any connection with the "110 hours" of training.

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Note: On 19 Sep 51, by a governmental decree, DOSARM, DOSAV and DOSFLOT (Voluntary Association for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force and Navy) were merged into one single, universal, organization for cooperation with the Armed Forces called DOSAAF (Voluntary Association for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force and Navy). The DOSAAF is under direction of Colonel General V I Kuznetsov.

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2. Some time in October 1950, when I was working in the [redacted] I was told to report the next day at 1000 hours with all my civilian documents to the Kurgan Voenkomat. In February 1950 I had registered (taken "on Uchet") for the first time with the Kurgan Voenkomat but had not yet been inducted and continued my normal civilian work at the plant. The summons did not specify the purpose of the call. 50X1
3. The next day when I reported to Voenkomat there were already about 600-800 youngsters of the age 18-21 years, all with the same summons as mine. Those who were previously registered with the Voenkomat and consequently were issued "Pripisnoye Svidetelstvo" (Voenkomat Registration Certificate) had to surrender these certificates. "Pripisnoye Svidetelstvo" is issued when the youngsters are registered for the first time with the Voenkomat; it means that such individuals are subject to the draft. The normal period of time between registration and draft is two to three years (18-21). The others, who had not yet been registered with Voenkomat and were not in possession of Voenkomat Registration Certificates, surrendered their civilian passports. Each individual was asked in which shift he worked (all plants in Kurgan work on the three shift basis, even those manufacturing civilian goods and agricultural machinery) and ordered to report the next day in his free time to the DOSARM Hqs in Kurgan for military training. The second and third shifts went at 0900, and the first at 1900 hrs. After that the Voenkomat's Commander read a decree stating that all reported were qualified as being on military duty and subject to military discipline. It was stated that every attempt to evade the duty would be punished by court martial. We were also informed that we had to undergo the paramilitary training three times a week for three hours each time, i.e. nine hrs weekly. This training was supposed to last for six months.
4. The headquarters of the DOSARM organization in Kurgan is located in the city itself, occupying an entire block of buildings with a large courtyard inside used as a drill field. I do not remember the exact address. In the courtyard there are several artillery pieces of various types and calibers used in the Soviet Army, such as tanks, self-propelled guns, machine guns, mortars, etc. All this equipment is used for training purposes. In the buildings surrounding the courtyard are several classrooms provided with model equipment, sketches, charts, etc, for theoretical instruction. Instructors in paramilitary training are officers and NCOs. I do not know where this personnel came from or whether it was on active duty; I am inclined to believe, however, that they were officers and NCOs of the reserve corps living in the Kurgan region and registered with the Kurgan Voenkomat.
5. The next day when we reported to DOSARM we were put into military formation and there was a roll call. After that we were assigned to various armed branches and divided into companies, platoons, sections and squads. An officer or an NCO was assigned to each unit as commander. As far as I could understand, those already registered with Voenkomat were assigned according to the services for which they were earmarked by Voenkomat. I do not know how those not registered with Voenkomat were assigned. They were probably

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assigned for infantry training. The training groups (15-20 men each) were formed as follows: machine-gunners, mortar-gunners, submachine-gunners, tank personnel, drivers, artillerymen, motorcyclists. These groups were referred to as platoons and were commanded by officers. I was assigned to the artillery group. All this was done on the first training day, and we were released with the order to report again in two days, at the same time.

6. In the following days we were issued rifles and sidearms and started theoretical and practical military training. We continued to wear our usual civilian clothes, even when we marched in formation through the city with the arms on. The 36 hours of monthly training in my artillery group were divided approximately as follows:

Close order drill	6 hours
Assembly, disassembly and nomenclature of weapons	10 hours
Nomenclature of ammunition	8 hours
Basic ballistics	6 hours
Political lectures	6 hours

The close order drill was held each time for 30 minutes, regardless of weather conditions, in the open, in the courtyard, or marching through the city in closed formation. The assembly and disassembly of weapons and the instruction on nomenclature was usually done in a practical way, using various artillery pieces located in the DOSARM courtyard. When there was a rain, or it was heavily snowing, these lectures were held in class-rooms, using models, sketches, charts, etc. There was no training in aiming weapons, and the training guns were not even equipped with gun sights. No live or blank fire from artillery guns was ever used as long as I attended the training. Instruction in nomenclature of ammunition was done mostly in class-rooms on sketches and charts. Instruction in basic ballistics was conducted in classrooms and included such things as explanation of gunpowder gases action and trajectory of the projectile. Political lectures usually had for the subject the main Soviet propaganda theme - that the American "capitalists" are preparing for an aggressive war against the USSR, and that our sacred duty is to get ready to protect the Fatherland and to repel the aggression.

7. Working for eight hours daily in the plant, and often even more for overtime work, it was hard for me and other trainees to attend the DOSARM training regularly. After six weeks of regular attendance I started to evade it, using various excuses, and eventually discontinued attending it completely. No steps were ever taken to force me to go on with this training. Several of my co-workers did the same thing.
8. In my opinion the DOSARM military training in Kurgan was not adequately organized. The instruction facilities and training equipment were insufficient and mostly obsolete. The same applies to the service manuals, training aids, models. Instructors, officers and NCO's had an indifferent

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attitude and did not care whether the trainees learned anything or whether they attended classes. Because of these insufficiencies and their regular jobs, the trainees also had an indifferent attitude to DOSARM training and attended it only because it was supposed to be compulsory. However, as soon as they discovered that no action was taken against those evading training, almost everybody started to look for some excuse not to do it either.

9. I do believe, though, if properly organized and strictly carried on, the six months of the obligatory DOSARM paramilitary training would aid future recruits to absorb the real basic training after induction.

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